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WELFARE ASSOCIATION
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington, D. C.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[1934]

The Welfare Association of the Department of Agriculture has completed another year of service to the employees of the Department, and the officers of the Association point with pride to the many accomplishments during 1934. Primarily, this organization is for the benefit of those in need and who have not accumulated sufficient cash reserves to care for unforeseen emergencies. The great bulk of the loans are made for hospitalization expenses, while others have been made for emergencies ranging from burial expenses to advances of funds to permit retired employees paying up back charges in order that their retirement funds may be released.

Loans were made as follows:

	<u>No. of Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Agr. Adjustment Administration	30	\$ 1,887.35
Agr. Economics	14	1,412.80
Agr. Engineering	4	291.00
Biological Survey	4	445.00
Cafeteria	1	85.20
Chemistry and Soils	7	499.35
Dairy Industry	1	236.70
Entomology	4	325.00
Extension Service	1	100.00
Food and Drug Administration	5	570.31
Forest Service	8	620.00
Information	6	464.45
Plant Industry	24	1,404.69
Secretary, Office of	3	273.50
Weather Bureau	4	462.71
	<u>118</u>	<u>\$ 9,078.06</u>

Arrangements have been made with Sibley, Georgetown, Providence and Freedman's Hospitals whereby discounts are given Welfare cases, and the bills are rendered direct to the Association. By this arrangement, the employee is loaned only the amount actually needed for hospitalization, but secures the benefit of the discount and may repay the Association as circumstances permit.

The Association has employed a full time nurse to aid in the Department's Emergency Room in the South Building, and to do such other Welfare work as necessary. She has been able to investigate many needy cases and to recommend action by the Association. In addition to this work she has been able to check up on many delinquent loans and convince the delinquents that payments should be resumed.

Definite aid has been rendered in social life of the Department by loaning funds to the Musical and Theatrical Guild in order that this worthwhile organization might purchase the necessary musical equipment to start the series of entertainments given during the year.

The Department of Agriculture Credit Union was sponsored by the officers of the Welfare Association and while it is entirely separate and distinct, the two organizations work in close cooperation. The Credit Union since June 1934, has grown to a membership of 171, with capital amounting to \$2,995.82, and has made 47 loans amounting to \$3,444.75 to Department employees. The Welfare Association purchased \$500.00 worth of stock in the Credit Union to assist in getting it started, and also because this stock is an excellent investment.

The two major projects of the Welfare Association are the operation of the Agriculture Cafeteria and the Welfare Store. The Cafeteria is operated under the supervision of a Board of five members, and the capable management of Mrs. M. H. Jones. During the year, total food sales amounted to \$134,528.21. There were 514,591 meals sold, at an average price of 24¢ per meal. Meal tickets, valued at \$3.50, were sold for \$3.00, resulting in the sum of \$2,241.24, being turned back to regular patrons of the Cafeteria. Approximately 70 regular and part time employees are employed by the Cafeteria. The Cafeteria has established a reputation for serving the most delicious meals of any similar Cafeteria in the city. Plans are under way by the Treasury Department to enlarge the facilities by installing another line of service in the main Cafeteria, a Cafeteria counter in the new unit between wings 5 and 6, and a series of private dining rooms between wings 6 and 7. These improvements will probably not be made for several months.

The Welfare Store is a continuation of the former Department store, but operated by the Association. Surplus products from the Beltsville and Arlington farms are sold by the store, at prices estab-

lished by the Department of Purchase Sales and Traffic. In addition, lunch goods, cold drinks, candies, tabaccos, etc. are also sold. Under Mr. D. L. Shaw, the efficient manager of the store, new equipment has been installed and the trade is constantly increasing. During ten months' operation, a total of \$68,006.81 sales was made through this unit. Four regular employees are maintained in the store. With the expanding activities of the Beltsville Farm, the Welfare Store will be of increasing service not only to the Department for the disposal of surplus products, but also to Department employees.

The profits derived from the Cafeteria and Store have made possible the discontinuance of the annual drive for funds which was formerly necessary, and in addition have permitted the Association to broaden its scope of service. There are many problems which the Welfare Association can well aid in solving in the future. Group hospitalization, medical clinics, cooperative stores, parking facilities and many other projects have been suggested as fields of greater service to the employees.

The hearty support given the Welfare Association by the Department Personnel has made these accomplishments possible.

ALBERT M. DAY, President.

